

*Early app'n
10/606,469*

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION
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SUNSPOTTER SOLAR TELESCOPE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This application is a continuation of copending application U.S. Serial No. 09/812,115, filed on March 24, 2001.

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a solar telescope and more particularly to a folded-path telescope for projecting an image of the sun that can be easily aimed at the sun.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Observing the sun using a telescope is fraught with difficulty. Direct vision can risk eye damage. Solar filters are often added to astronomical telescopes. These can fall off or crack due to the sun's heat, exposing the viewer's eye to the concentrated rays of the sun. In addition, astronomical telescopes are often large, unwieldy, hard to point and optimized for viewing dim objects at night. It is desirable to have a small, easy to use telescope that is as safe as possible. A telescope that can project a solar image onto a viewing surface allows users to observe sunspots and sketch drawings of the projected solar image onto a removable writing surface placed on the viewing surface.

A device is described in U.S. Patent 4,437,736 wherein the sun viewing apparatus is a self-contained device consisting of a light shield with an aperture for admitting the rays of the sun and a series of pre-aligned lenses and prisms to display an image of the sun on a screen to